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Advancement of women: implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report responds to General Assembly resolution 60/140. It reviews steps taken by the Assembly during its sixtieth session to promote the achievement of gender equality through the gender mainstreaming strategy, by assessing the extent to which resolutions have taken into account gender perspectives and made specific recommendations for action. The report reviews from a gender perspective the resolutions submitted by the Committees of the Assembly as well as outcomes of major events, including the 2005 World Summit, the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. It further reviews the extent to which selected documentation, submitted as reports and notes of the Secretary-General, has supported attention to gender perspectives in the deliberations and outcomes of the Assembly.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/140, requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council[1] and the Commission on the Status of Women[2] on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and on the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, and to recommend further measures to enhance implementation. The present report has been prepared in response to this mandate.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly noted the efforts of its Main Committees to pay attention to gender issues, and resolved to intensify such efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective in their work, as well as in future United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes. The present report reviews steps taken by the Assembly during its sixtieth session to promote the achievement of gender equality through the gender mainstreaming strategy, by assessing the extent to which resolutions have taken into account gender perspectives and made specific recommendations for action. The report reviews from a gender perspective outcomes of major events, including the 2005 World Summit, the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. The report further provides a review of the extent to which selected documentation submitted to the Assembly in reports and notes of the Secretary-General has supported consideration of gender perspectives in the deliberations and outcomes of the Assembly.

II. Implementation of and follow-up to major international conferences and summits

A. 2005 World Summit — High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, New York, 14-16 September 2005

3. In the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session in 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women emphasized that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.[3] The Commission stressed the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective at the 2005 World Summit. The Declaration was transmitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly,[4] which welcomed the outcome in resolution 60/140. The Assembly emphasized that full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit.

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[1] The relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/2006/65) focused on capacity-building and training for gender mainstreaming.

[2] Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2006/2).

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27-E/CN.6/2005/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[4] See Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232 of 21 July 2005.

4. Heads of State and Government attending the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed that gender equality is essential to advance development and peace and security (General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 12). The Secretary-General and all decision-making bodies were encouraged to take further steps in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the policies and decisions of the Organization (ibid., para. 166). World leaders supported stronger system-wide coherence by ensuring that the main horizontal policy themes, including gender [equality], are taken into account in decision-making (ibid., para. 169).

5. Gender perspectives were considered in several thematic sections of the World Summit Outcome, in particular in section II, Development. In the subsection entitled "Gender equality and the empowerment of women", world leaders expressed the conviction that progress for women is progress for all. They reaffirmed the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly as an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. They resolved to eliminate gender inequalities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date, and at all educational levels by 2015; guarantee the free and equal right of women to own and inherit property, and ensure secure tenure of property and housing; ensure equal access to reproductive health; promote equal access to labour markets, sustainable employment and adequate labour protection; ensure equal access to productive assets and resources, including land, credit and technology; eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence, including by ending impunity and ensuring the protection of women and girls, during and after armed conflicts; and promote increased representation of women in Government decision-making bodies, including through ensuring their equal opportunity to participate fully in the political process (ibid., para. 58).

6. The importance of gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality was recognized, and world leaders undertook to actively promote gender mainstreaming in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, and to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender [equality] (ibid., para. 59).

7. Also in section II, world leaders reaffirmed in the context of domestic resource mobilization that gender equality and issues such as a commitment to just and democratic societies are essential and mutually reinforcing (ibid., para. 24 (*b*)). Secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training should be expanded, especially for girls and women, and support for developing country efforts to eliminate gender inequality and improve girls' education was reaffirmed (ibid., paras. 43 and 44). World leaders also resolved to make full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women, a central objective of national and international policies and national development strategies (ibid., para. 47). They committed to achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, integrating that goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals (ibid., para. 57 (*g*)). They also emphasized the need to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance, sound economic management and gender equality (ibid., para. 68).

8. In section III, Peace and collective security, world leaders stressed the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and in peacebuilding. They reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. They also underlined the importance of integrating a gender perspective, and of women having the opportunity for equal participation in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as the need to increase women's role in decision-making. A commitment was made to elaborating and implementing strategies against gender-based violence (ibid., para. 116).

9. In section IV, Human rights and the rule of law, world leaders undertook to advance the human rights of women and children, including by bringing gender and child protection perspectives into the human rights agenda. They also called upon States to continue efforts to eradicate discriminatory policies and practices, and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality (ibid., paras. 124, 128 and 134 (*d*)).

10. Other subsections of the World Summit Outcome, such as Financing for development; Trade; Global economic decision-making; Sustainable development; Science and technology; Migration; Peacekeeping; Sanctions; Transnational crime, which included trafficking; Democracy; and Refugee protection, did not address gender perspectives.

11. In follow-up to the World Summit, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/180, called upon the Peacebuilding Commission to integrate a gender perspective into all of its work. The Commission was encouraged to consult with civil society, non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations engaged in peacebuilding activities.

12. General Assembly resolution 60/251 on the Human Rights Council made no references to gender equality or women's human rights.

13. In its resolution 60/265 on follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, the General Assembly reaffirmed commitments in the World Summit Outcome from paragraphs 24 (*b*), 47, 57 (*g*), and 58 (see paras. 5 and 7 above), including by reaffirming that full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

14. General Assembly resolution 60/283 entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger organization worldwide" did not integrate gender perspectives.

15. As part of the ongoing follow-up to the World Summit, a number of reports were submitted by the Secretary-General; two of these reports[5] paid attention to gender perspectives: his report on the implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome for action by the Secretary-General (A/60/430) included a section entitled "Further steps to mainstreaming a gender perspective", and noted a request to all United Nations entities to develop a system-wide gender

[5] Three other reports paid limited attention to gender perspectives or focused on gender balance: A/60/692, A/60/568 and A/60/825.

mainstreaming policy and strategy, with related accountability mechanisms. The report discussed the role of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality in intensifying the development of new methodologies, tools and competences. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates" (A/60/733 and Corr.1) stressed that gender issues deserve the same consideration of other cross-cutting priorities in the work of the Organization, and noted the need for a comprehensive review of institutional resources, mandates and reporting on gender equality and the advancement of women. The report also noted that the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence would be asked to include in its work an assessment of how gender equality, including through gender mainstreaming, can be better and more fully addressed in the work of the United Nations, particularly in its operational activities on the ground.

B. Second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis, 16 to 18 November 2005

16. In its resolution 59/168, the General Assembly encouraged Governments and other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective into the preparatory processes and outcome documents of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis, taking into account the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session in 2003. The Tunis Commitment[6] and the action-oriented Tunis Agenda for the Information Society[6] addressed gender perspectives in some sections and expanded on some of the previous commitments made in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted by the first phase of the World Summit in Geneva in 2003.[7]

17. The Tunis Commitment recognized that an appropriate enabling environment at national and international levels could prevent increasing social and economic divisions — including between men and women. Member States also recognized that a gender digital divide exists, and reaffirmed their commitment to women's empowerment and to integrating a gender equality perspective to overcome this divide. The Tunis Agenda committed Member States to building information and communication technology (ICT) capacity for all and confidence in the use of ICTs by all, including women.

18. Building on the Geneva Plan of Action, which encouraged Governments in collaboration with other stakeholders to formulate ICT policies fostering women's participation, the Tunis Commitment acknowledged that full participation of women is necessary to ensure inclusiveness and respect for human rights within the Information Society. All stakeholders were encouraged to support women's participation in decision-making processes.

19. The Geneva Plan of Action emphasized that gender barriers to ICT education and training should be removed and equal training opportunities in ICT-related fields promoted for women and girls. The Tunis Agenda made a further commitment to implementing effective training and education, particularly in ICT science and

[6] See A/60/687, annex.

[7] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

technology, which motivates and promotes participation and active involvement of girls and women in decision-making in the Information Society.

20. The Geneva Plan of Action recommended that gender-specific indicators on ICT be developed and measurable performance indicators be identified to assess the impact of ICT projects on women and girls. The Tunis Agenda noted the 2004 launch of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, and its efforts to develop specific disaggregated indicators to measure the digital [gender] divide.

C. High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, New York, 31 May to 2 June 2006

21. In its resolution 50/2, on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, the Commission on the Status of Women recommended that the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS ensure the inclusion of gender perspectives and pay attention to the situation of women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.[8] The Commission also invited the Secretary-General to consider the gender dimensions of the epidemic when preparing his report, and in preparations for and organization of the meeting. The Commission stressed, among other issues, the importance of the provision of resources; international cooperation; coordination within the United Nations system; and information and awareness-raising.

22. The General Assembly integrated gender perspectives into the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (resolution 60/262, annex) in sections focusing on vulnerability, prevention of infection; services for pregnant women; prevention of violence; sexual and reproductive health; women's human rights; support for children and their caregivers; comprehensive health programmes; and medicine research and development.

23. In the Political Declaration, Member States pledged to increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from infection, principally through the provision of health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health; and ensure that women can exercise their right to control matters related to their sexuality, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. (ibid., para. 30). Member States committed themselves to strengthening measures for the promotion and protection of women's full enjoyment of all human rights and the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of discrimination, sexual exploitation, and violence (ibid., para. 31). Member States pledged to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and strengthen their economic independence. The importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality was reiterated (ibid., para. 30).

24. In addition, Member States committed to ensuring that pregnant women would have access to antenatal services, and to increasing effective treatment for women living with HIV in order to reduce mother-to-child transmission (para. 27). A commitment was also made to support women in their role as caregivers for children living with HIV/AIDS (ibid., para 32). Member States committed to integrating HIV/AIDS intervention into programmes for primary health care, mother and child health, and sexual and reproductive health (ibid., para. 34). Research and

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2006/27-E/CN.6/2006/15 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

development of HIV/AIDS-related medicines, products and technologies, including female-controlled methods, would be intensified (ibid., para. 45).

III. Main Committees of the General Assembly

25. The present section contains an overview of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during its sixtieth session. It notes all resolutions that have paid attention to gender perspectives, but focuses in particular on resolutions containing specific, action-oriented recommendations on gender equality and/or the advancement of women and girls. The section does not cover resolutions that addressed gender balance or equal opportunities in the United Nations system.

26. The Third and Second Committees paid greater attention to gender equality and the advancement of women and girls, including through specific recommendations for action, than the other Committees. The First, Fourth, and Fifth Committees made some references to gender issues, including specific proposals for action. The Sixth Committee did not give attention to gender perspectives.

A. First Committee: disarmament and international security

27. General Assembly resolution 60/68 on addressing the negative humanitarian and development impact of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation was the only resolution of the First Committee that integrated gender perspectives. The Assembly called upon States to take full account of the roles that women and women's organizations could play in small arms disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes; and to ensure that the needs of women and girl combatants and dependants be addressed in such programmes. Other resolutions of the First Committee did not reflect attention to gender perspectives contained in reports of the Secretary-General, for example, in relation to the work of Regional Centres for Peace, Disarmament and Development.

B. Second Committee: economic and financial

Women in development

28. Under this biannual agenda item, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/210, urged Governments to develop and promote strategies to mainstream a gender perspective in economic and development policies and in monitoring and evaluating related programmes of action. The Assembly called for improved employment conditions and security for women in the service sector, and thus reflected many of the findings and recommendations of the corresponding report of the Secretary-General entitled "Women in development: The impact of globalization on women's employment and empowerment" (A/60/162 and Corr.1), including the need for collecting sex-disaggregated data. The resolution made several other specific action-oriented recommendations in the areas of sector-wide policy and programme planning, resource allocation, capacity-building, non-discriminatory legislation, as well as access to technology, credit, land, education and health.

Other issues, including follow-up to major conferences and summits

29. A number of resolutions provided specific recommendations for action on gender equality and the advancement of women in relation to follow-up to major conferences and summits, poverty eradication, the international financial system and development, sustainable development, global partnerships, and human resources development.

30. In its resolution 60/203 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the targets of the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including on gender equality.

31. General Assembly resolution 60/209 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) contained numerous references to gender issues in poverty eradication policies, fair globalization, education and microfinance. Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes for poverty eradication, at both the national and international levels. The use of gender analysis was also encouraged. In its resolution 60/186 on international financial system and development the Assembly called for continued policy advice, technical assistance and financial support of multilateral financial institutions to Member countries, to minimize negative impacts of adjustment programmes, taking into account gender-sensitive employment policies and strategies. In its resolution 60/215, entitled "Towards global partnerships", the Assembly recommended that partnerships should foster the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including gender-related discrimination, in employment.

32. In its resolution 60/198 on sustainable mountain development, the General Assembly underlined the need for improved access to resources and a strengthened role of mountain women in decision-making processes. This reflects a recommendation in the related report of the Secretary-General (A/60/309). In its resolution 60/211 on human resources development, the Assembly called for the integration of gender perspectives in human resources development, including through capacity-building and participation of women in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and action. It also called for the empowerment of women in human resources development.

33. In its resolution 60/195 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the General Assembly recognized the importance of integrating gender perspectives and engaging women in disaster management, but made no specific action proposals. In its resolution 60/204 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, the Assembly made no specific action-oriented recommendations but stressed the importance of a holistic approach through gender-sensitive development and reaffirmed the fundamental importance of gender equality for sustained economic growth and development.

C. Third Committee: social, humanitarian and cultural

34. A number of resolutions addressed gender perspectives in relation to human rights, social development, crime prevention and criminal justice, international drug control, refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions, and rights of children.

Advancement of women and follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

35. The General Assembly adopted seven substantive resolutions: resolution 60/136 on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women; resolution 60/137 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women; resolution 60/138 on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas; resolution 60/139 on violence against women migrant workers; resolution 60/140 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; resolution 60/229 on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; and resolution 60/230 on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The resolutions reflected the majority of the recommendations made in corresponding reports of the Secretary-General submitted under the agenda item on advancement of women (A/60/38, A/60/137, A/60/165, A/60/170, A/60/206, A/60/211 and A/60/372).

The girl child

36. In its resolution 60/141, the General Assembly urged States to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by girls of all human rights, including in relation to marriage; equal access to basic services; legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence; special measures to support orphan girls; and protection of girls affected by armed conflicts, particularly from HIV/AIDS. Stakeholders were urged to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education. The Secretary-General was requested to ensure that United Nations entities take into account the rights and particular needs of girls in country programmes. Human rights mechanisms were asked to integrate gender perspectives in implementing their mandates and to include in their reports analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls.

Human rights

37. The gender perspectives of human rights were addressed in a number of substantive resolutions on thematic issues, country situations, international human rights instruments and the work of human rights mechanisms. Some of these included specific action-oriented language.

38. General Assembly resolution 60/231 on the rights of the child contained action-oriented recommendations on gender perspectives, girls and women, including in relation to the elimination of violence; promotion and protection of children's rights, including girls living with HIV/AIDS; prevention and eradication

of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and children affected by armed conflict.

39. In its resolution 60/169 on protection of migrants, the General Assembly requested States to implement national or international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Assembly also urged integrating gender perspectives in international migration policies and programmes.

40. In its resolution 60/157 on the right to development, the General Assembly stressed the need for the integration of the rights of girls and boys in all policies and programmes. In its resolution 60/165 on the right to food, the Assembly encouraged States to take action to address gender inequality and discrimination, in particular where it contributes to the malnutrition of women and girls.

41. In its resolution 60/142, on the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the General Assembly invited Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous and other non-governmental organizations and civil society actors to draw up their own plans for the Second Decade, including integrating a gender perspective in such activities. In its resolution 60/160 on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, the Assembly urged States and the international community to apply gender perspectives when promoting and protecting the rights of minorities.

42. In its resolution 60/150 on combating defamation of religions, the General Assembly urged States to ensure equal access to education for all, including access to free primary education for girls and boys. In its resolution 60/166 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, the Assembly urged States to increase efforts to eliminate such intolerance and discrimination, including by attention to practices that violate the human rights of women and discriminate against women.

43. In its resolution 60/159, on human rights in the administration of justice, the General Assembly invited Governments to provide gender-sensitive training and increase attention to women in prison. In its resolution 60/148, on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Assembly invited States parties to incorporate gender perspectives when submitting reports to the Committee against Torture. In its resolution 60/149, on International Covenants on Human Rights, the Assembly called upon States parties to make use in their reports of sex-disaggregated data, and stressed the importance of integrating a gender perspective. In its resolution 60/155, on human rights and unilateral coercive measures, the Assembly urged States to refrain from adopting measures that impede economic and social development by the population, in particular children and women.

44. In its resolution 60/170, on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the General Assembly called upon the Government to protect women and children from violence; promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and children, ensure their full participation in post-conflict reconstruction in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); ensure a

gender-sensitive programme to demobilize, disarm and reintegrate former combatants, and take into account the special needs of girls associated with them. The Assembly also urged the Secretary-General to continue his work for the elimination of sexual exploitation by United Nations personnel. In its resolution 60/233, on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Assembly called upon the Government to end sexual violence by members of the armed forces, in particular against women from ethnic nationalities. In its resolution 60/171, on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Assembly called upon the Government to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls and to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

45. In other country-specific resolutions, resolution 60/172, on the situation of human rights in Turkmenistan, resolution 60/173, on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and resolution 60/174, on the situation of human rights in Uzbekistan, the General Assembly noted that these countries were States parties to the Convention, or expressed concern at the violation of women's human rights. The Assembly did not make any gender-specific action-oriented recommendations.

46. The following resolutions paid some attention to gender perspectives but did not propose action on gender equality or the advancement of women: resolution 60/128, on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa; resolution 60/129, on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; resolution 60/154, on the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; resolution 60/161, on the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; resolution 60/167 on human rights and cultural diversity; and resolution 60/168 on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons.

Other issues, including follow-up to major conferences and summits

47. Other resolutions that incorporated gender perspectives focused on follow-up to major conferences and summits, other social issues, crime prevention and criminal justice and drug abuse.

48. In its resolution 60/130, on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly underlined the responsibility of the private sector regarding the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities. In its resolution 60/135, on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the Assembly recommended that the Commission on the Status of Women should continue to consider the situation of older women, in particular those most vulnerable and living in rural areas. In its resolution 60/144, on global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Assembly recognized the need to integrate a gender perspective into relevant policies, strategies and programmes of action against racism.

49. In its resolution 60/132, on cooperatives in social development, the General Assembly encouraged Governments to promote the participation of women in cooperatives across all sectors, that reflects a recommendation in the related report of the Secretary-General (A/60/138), which also included gender perspectives throughout its analysis. In its resolution 60/133 on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond, the Assembly urged Member States to create an environment conducive to strengthen and support families, recognizing that equality between women and men are essential to family well-being and to society at large. In its resolution 60/131, entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities", the Assembly paid attention to gender perspectives, but did not propose action-oriented recommendations.

50. In its resolution 60/175, on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, the General Assembly recognized existing efforts at the regional level that complement the work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children. In the Bangkok Declaration, contained in the annex to resolution 60/177 on the follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, States members affirmed the need to ensure that services to children take into account their gender. In its resolution 60/178 on international cooperation against the world drug problem, the Assembly called upon Member States to consider providing additional reporting and analysis on women-specific data relating to the use of illicit substances and access to appropriate treatment services. States should consider strengthening and implementing prevention and treatment programmes that address barriers limiting access for young girls and women.

D. Fourth Committee: special political and decolonization

51. General Assembly resolution 60/97 on assistance in mine action, was the only resolution that integrated gender perspectives. The Assembly urged States to reduce the risks posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, including to women; and encouraged all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include mine action activities in their humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance, bearing in mind the need for a gender perspective.

E. Fifth Committee: administrative and budgetary

52. General Assembly resolution 60/244, entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Office in Timor-Leste", was the only resolution that paid attention to gender perspectives. It requested the Secretary-General to ensure appropriate coordination of gender mainstreaming activities.

53. Other resolutions of the Fifth Committee stressed the importance of gender balance and the equal representation of women. The present report does not cover those issues.

F. Sixth Committee: legal

54. None of the resolutions paid special attention to gender perspectives or the advancement of women.

G. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

55. Resolutions adopted by the Plenary without reference to a Main Committee that made specific recommendations on gender equality addressed youth; humanitarian assistance, including in relation to country situations; development and peace; malaria in developing countries; oceans and the law of the sea; and cultural understanding.

56. In its resolution 60/2 on policies and programmes involving youth, the General Assembly decided to make the mixed impact of globalization on young women and men a priority area for the implementation of the World Programme of Action on Youth. In its resolution 60/11 on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, the Assembly encouraged Governments to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among human beings in all their diversity of religion, belief, culture and language, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so.

57. In its resolution 60/15 on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, the Assembly urged Governments and the United Nations system, in planning for disaster preparedness and responding to natural disasters, and implementing recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, to integrate a gender perspective and to ensure that women take an active and equal role in disaster management. In its resolution 60/124 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the Assembly invited States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. The Assembly also called upon States to elaborate and implement strategies to report on, prevent and punish all forms of violence against women, girls and boys.

58. In its resolutions 60/32 A and B on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security and emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan, the General Assembly made numerous references to women. The Assembly called for implementation of the new Afghan Constitution, including the full enjoyment by women of their human rights; providing Afghan children with educational and health facilities, recognizing the special needs of girls; investigating allegations of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, including against women and girls; and urged the Government to actively involve women in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programmes. It encouraged the collection and use of sex-

disaggregated statistical data to accurately track progress of the full integration of women into political, economic and social life.

59. In its resolution 60/221 entitled "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa", the General Assembly requested international organizations to assist efforts of Government for universal protection of young children and pregnant women in areas of endemic malaria; and called upon the international community to support the development of new medicines, especially for children and pregnant women. In its resolution 60/223 on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, the Assembly urged further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines for protection of and assistance to women in conflict and post-conflict situations; called for the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding; and for expanding gender mainstreaming in the work of United Nations organizations involved in peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. Both resolutions reflected recommendations in the corresponding reports of the Secretary-General (A/60/208 and A/60/182).

60. In its resolution 60/30 on oceans and the law of the sea, the General Assembly urged States to become parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to take appropriate measures for its effective implementation. In its resolution 60/225 on assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation of orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, to take measures for the implementation of the resolution.

61. The following resolutions paid some attention to gender perspectives but did not propose actions on gender equality or for the advancement of women: resolution 60/3 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010; resolution 60/4 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations; resolution 60/8 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal; resolution 60/9 on sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace; resolution 60/123 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel; and resolution 60/222, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

IV. Attention to gender perspectives in selected documentation submitted to the Assembly in reports and notes of the Secretary-General

62. The present section contains a brief overview of gender mainstreaming in selected documentation for the sixtieth session of the Assembly. This assessment focuses on reports that have paid significant attention to gender equality and the advancement of women and girls, and/or made specific recommendations for action. The previous report of the Secretary-General (A/60/170, paras. 68 (a)-(e)) suggested

that reports submitted to the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies should be based on qualitative gender analysis and contain concrete recommendations for further action.

63. A considerable number of reports and notes of the Secretary-General prepared for major events or on follow-up to major conferences and summits, and documentation submitted to the Committees of the General Assembly, paid attention to gender perspectives and the situation of women and girls in their analysis. While several reports made efforts to present and analyse sex-disaggregated information and data, such gender analysis was, however, not always translated into conclusions or action-oriented recommendations. A number of reports and notes recommended that the Assembly propose gender-specific actions to Governments and other stakeholders.

64. Reports to the Third Committee paid more attention to gender perspectives than reports to other Committees. The specific recommendations for action in some of the reports and notes of the Secretary-General were included in resolutions, for example in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/60/358), the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/60/395), and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/60/221). In other cases, reports with clear action-oriented recommendations, for example, the report of the Secretary-General on the draft programme of action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/60/270 and Add.1) did not lead to specific action-oriented recommendations in resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

65. Reports of the Secretary-General on follow-up to major conferences and summits made action-oriented recommendations in only a few cases, such as the reports on follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children (A/60/207), and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/60/80).[9]

66. Many reports of the Secretary-General to the Third Committee related to children, families, youth, minorities, food, religion or belief, human rights, administration of justice, and drug control included gender perspectives in their analysis (A/60/130, A/60/155, A/60/156, A/60/282, A/60/290, A/60/321, A/60/333, A/60/335, A/60/350 and A/60/399). They generally stressed that gender equality is essential for the achievement of progress in a particular field. While many reports assessed the impact of a particular issue on women and girls, or described specific actions benefiting women and girls, fewer discussed the active participation of women and girls in a given area.

67. Several reports to the Second Committee, notably on human resources development, poverty eradication, and sustainable development, made action-oriented recommendations. Some of the many action-oriented recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on human resources development (A/60/318) were reflected in the resolution 60/211. A few recommendations of his report on the centrality of employment to poverty eradication (A/60/314) were reflected in general terms in the corresponding resolution 60/209. The recommendations

[9] Other reports on follow-up and implementation of major conferences and summits, including A/60/261, A/60/151, and A/60/307 did not include action-oriented recommendations.

contained in other reports, including his reports on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/60/168), and on building institutions for achieving the Development Goals and integrating in the Global Economy (A/60/322) were not taken up in resolutions adopted.

68. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: five years later" (A/60/736), prepared for the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, analysed sex-disaggregated statistics and made some action-oriented recommendations. These were reflected in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (see General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex), in particular in commitments to addressing factors that increase vulnerability, including gender inequality and all forms of discrimination; enhancing women's economic opportunities; and developing effective female-controlled prevention methods.

69. A number of reports to the Second Committee, for example on international financial systems and disaster reduction (A/60/163 and A/60/180), paid no attention to gender equality in their analysis or in their recommendations. The corresponding resolutions 60/186 and 60/195, however, did integrate gender perspectives in relation to gender-sensitive employment policies and the importance of gender perspectives in disaster management.

70. Some reports to the Fourth Committee and Sixth Committees made action-oriented recommendations. These included the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/60/380); his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/60/640/Add.1 and Corr.1), and his report on the *Repertory of practice of the United Nations organs* and *the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/60/124).

71. In reports to the Fifth Committee, references to gender equality were included in a number of reports relating to the expected accomplishments, indicators of accomplishments, and outputs of peacekeeping missions, for example in relation to technical advice, training, conferences, seminars and workshops on gender equality, human rights of women, and gender mainstreaming for and with various stakeholders including governments officials, troops, and women's organizations (A/60/190, A/60/273, A/60/335, A/60/585/Add.1, A/60/612, A/60/637, A/60/653, A/60/669, A/60/681, A/60/725/Add.1, A/60/726 and A/60/727). Many of these reports also refer to gender balance, which is not the subject of the present report.

72. The references to gender perspectives in several reports to the First Committee (A/60/132, A/60/152, A/60/153, on the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa, respectively) were not reflected in resolutions adopted by the Committee.

73. Some reports, including the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (A/60/87), paid attention to gender perspectives in their analysis, which was reflected in specific recommendations in resolutions adopted by the Plenary without

reference to a Main Committee. A few reports included specific action-oriented recommendations, such as his reports on the World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61-E/2005/7) and on the midterm global review of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010 (A/60/279). Specific recommendations of these reports were, however, not reflected in the corresponding resolutions.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

74. **Gender perspectives were not fully incorporated into resolutions adopted by the Main Committees of the General Assembly and into the outcomes of major events over the past year. About a quarter of all resolutions paid attention to gender perspectives[10] Only about half of those made gender-specific action-oriented recommendations[11] As in previous years, resolutions submitted by the Third and Second Committees, as well as those adopted without reference to a Main Committee, paid greater attention to gender perspectives than resolutions submitted by the other Committees of the Assembly. Further efforts could be made to ensure gender-sensitive consideration by the Assembly of disarmament and international security issues, special political issues, administrative and budgetary matters and legal affairs.**

75. **Documentation prepared for major events, and reports submitted to the Third and Second Committees of the Assembly, paid more attention to gender perspectives and the situation of women and girls than reports to the other Committees. Specific recommendations for action on gender equality and the advancement of women were, however, not always included in the documentation.**

76. **A selective review of documentation shows some correlation between attention to gender perspectives in reports of the Secretary-General and the integration of gender perspectives in resolutions adopted by the Assembly. Substantial attention to gender perspectives or gender-specific recommendations in reports of the Secretary-General tended to be reflected in resolutions, albeit not always completely and consistently. Increased attention to gender perspectives in resolutions adopted by the Assembly can be facilitated by systematic and concrete incorporation of gender analysis and recommendations in reports of the Secretary-General.**

77. **The General Assembly may wish to:**

(a) **Ensure the integration of gender perspectives in the implementation of and follow-up to major international conferences and summits by its subsidiary bodies, in particular the 2005 World Summit, as well as in the context of the reform of the United Nations;**

[10] As of 7 July 2006.

[11] Excluding resolutions adopted under the agenda items Advancement of women, Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, Women in development, and resolutions dealing with gender balance in human resources.

(b) **Ensure gender mainstreaming in the follow-up to the outcomes of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010;**

(c) **Ensure gender mainstreaming in the preparation of and follow-up to the Assembly's special session on children;**

(d) **Encourage its Committees and all subsidiary bodies to intensify their efforts to pay attention to gender perspectives, in particular by systematically including in their resolutions and decisions action-oriented recommendations for the achievement of gender equality and the advancement of women; and, where applicable, by including in their resolutions requests to the Secretary-General for gender-sensitive reporting;**

(e) **Ensure that its recently established subsidiary bodies, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council include attention to gender perspectives in the development of their methods of work and their consideration of all issues on their respective agendas;**

(f) **Encourage its Committees and all subsidiary bodies to enhance monitoring of progress on gender mainstreaming in their work through their own regular and systematic reviews;**

(g) **Request that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies facilitate gender-sensitive policy development by systematically addressing gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and, in particular, through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the advancement of women.**